



Utilitiesman 1st Class Kevin Geegan checks a level for the installation of batter boards as part of the construction of a new enlisted club at Camp America, Mar. 2. — photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Jordan Miller.



Sailors from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and Joint Task Force Guantanamo take the Navy-wide first class petty officer advancement examination at the Windjammer Ballroom, March 3. — photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class David P. Coleman.



Service members from Naval Station Guantanamo and Joint Task Force Guantanamo participate in a team building run, March 3. — photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class David P. Coleman.



Spc. J Woodard, with the 525th Military Police Battalion has the hood strings of his joint lightweight integrated suit technology (JLIST) coat loosened at Buckley Field, Mar. 3. — photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Jordan Miller.

# Around the JTF



# Trooper to Trooper

featuring

## Sergeant Major Steven Townsend

Operations Sgt. Maj., 525th Military Police Battalion



Ask 10 Troopers why they joined the military and undoubtedly one of the reasons you will hear is “for the discipline” or “I needed the structure in my life.”

As leaders we are charged with enforcing standards. Leaders at all levels should take a look at ourselves first. Are we living up to the standards and setting good examples to those we lead? Further, if you are already living up to the standards yourself, are you correcting deficiencies with on-the-spot corrections as you see them? Somewhere along the way I heard the saying, “If you walk by or fail to correct a deficiency, you have just set the new standard.”

Troopers’ personal discipline is usually a good indicator of what is happening in a command. It concerns me when a few among us continue to show a lack of discipline. Take a look around – what is your Troopers’ off-duty conduct like? Are courtesies and honors being rendered properly? How many uniform violations do you see?

Small things usually lead to bigger things, so if your Troops aren’t conducting themselves in accordance with prescribed regulations, ask yourself what other shortcuts they could be taking. Are they maintaining their weapons and equipment

properly? When they assume a post are they executing their duties professionally and as directed by post orders?

Some may see uniform or conduct on-the-spot corrections as being petty in the grand scheme of things. General George Washington considered discipline so important that through Benjamin Franklin he enlisted the aid of a Prussian Officer, Baron Friedrich von Steuben, to help train an otherwise undisciplined force. Upon his arrival to Valley Forge in 1779, von Steuben wrote the first Army field manual, aptly titled *The Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States*. Discipline, precision and teamwork were instilled into the Soldiers of the Continental Army,

ultimately leading to the independence of our great nation.

For a more recent example of the importance of discipline, one can take a look at the insurgent attack of a military supply convoy in Iraq on March 20, 2005. Because Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester and the rest of her squad members were so disciplined, even in a task that would appear so trivial to some – vehicle load plans – her squad was able to counter and defeat the insurgent ambush. Hester stated because her squad had adhered to strict vehicle load plans she was able to move from vehicle to vehicle during the ensuing gun battle and immediately secure what was needed to continue the fight.

### JTF Guantanamo

#### Commander

Navy Rear Adm. Jeffrey Harbeson

#### Command Master Chief

Command Sgt. Maj.

Mark Porrett

#### Office of Public Affairs Director

Navy Cmdr. Tamsen Reese: 9928

#### Deputy Director

Air Force Lt. Col. Don Langley: 9927

#### Operations Officer

CW2 Raymond Chapman: 3649

#### Senior Enlisted Leader

Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class

Sally Hendricks: 3649

**COVER:** An assistant watch commander with the Naval Expeditionary Guard Battalion checks-in with his Sailors inside Camp 6. - photo by Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

**BACK COVER:** Air Force Master Sgt. Marcus Wilkins rakes gravel on top of a mound made to cover an old bunker outside Camp Justice, Mar. 10. Wilkins is attached to the Base Emergency Engineer Force of the 138th Fighter Wing, Oklahoma Air National Guard - photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jordan Miller.

### The Wire

#### Executive Editor

Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel: 3499

#### Assistant Editor

Spc. Meredith Vincent: 3651

#### Photojournalists:

Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins

Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Jason Tross

Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Jordan Miller

Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Wesley Kreiss

Spc. Kelly Gary

Spc. Justin Pierce

### Contact us

Editor's Desk: 3499

From the continental United States

Commercial: 011-53-99-3499

DSN: 660-3499

E-mail: [thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil](mailto:thewire@jftgmo.southcom.mil)

Online: [www.jftgmo.southcom.mil](http://www.jftgmo.southcom.mil)



The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. The WIRE seeks to provide maximum disclosure with minimum delay with regard to security, accuracy, propriety and policy. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is printed by the Defense Logistics Agency Document Services with a circulation of 1,000.

# News from the Bay .....

## MWR outdoor rec gets some March Madness

Boaters and outdoor sportsmen have plenty to be thankful for this month, as Morale Welfare and Recreation kicks off their version of March Madness with numerous deals and discounts.

“We try to have at least eight events every month,” said MWR Outdoor Recreation Director Cory Geiger.

For March Madness, every Wednesday all boats are half-price to rent, Geiger explained. That means kayaks are \$1 an hour, fishing boats are \$3 an hour, pontoons are \$5 an hour and Sea Chasers are only \$10 an hour. The half-off special will also run on St. Patrick’s Day, March 17.

“The marina is more than just a place to rent boats,” said Geiger. “It is a one-stop shop for everything outdoors. Kayaks, mountain bikes, road bikes, tents, generators, canoes, sailboats, rolling coolers and much more.”

The day after St. Patrick’s Day, March 18, MWR will offer another of their sunset cruises at 6 p.m.

“You will be driven out to the southern

boundary, watch the sun set on the water and then cruise back to the marina,” said Geiger, adding coolers and cameras are welcome, but the event is always popular so it would be a good idea to call ahead.

“Outdoor recreation is a great way to get fit, and meet people,” Geiger said. “There are so many things available to the community at little or no cost.”

For more information about outdoor MWR events, contact x2345.

Spc. Meredith Vincent

## Triathlon marks Chief rank anniversary

Celebrating the 118th birthday of the Chief Petty Officer rank – established April 1, 1893 – members of the Guantanamo Bay chief petty officer community will sponsor a triathlon, April 2.

Registration for the 200-yard swim, 10-mile bike ride and 5k run event is already underway at the Navy Exchange atrium, Monday through Friday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The first 150 individuals to sign up will receive a commemorative t-shirt for the event.

Participants can compete in the event as

either a single contestant or as a team of no more than three. Individual registration is \$25, groups can register for \$70.

“Proceeds generated from the triathlon go to our annual scholarship funds given to W. T. Sampson Senior Student,” said Navy Counselor Chief Robert Pagtakhan, one of the lead organizers of the event.

Army Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

## What have you accomplished here on Guantanamo Bay that you are most proud of?



“My preparation for retirement.”

Army Sgt. 1st Class  
Mustafa Abdullah



“I paid off my car.”

Petty Officer 3rd Class  
John Sullivan



“Completed advanced diving certification.”

Spc. Thomas Johnson



“Helped find a charity hospital for a Jamaican burn victim.”

Religious Programs  
Specialist 3rd Class  
Jeffrey Lauber

## Boots on the Ground

# Seabees celebrate 69th birthday at The Windjammer

Story and photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Elisha Dawkins

Two hundred servicemembers and their guests attended the Seabee Ball at the Windjammer March 5, to honor the Seabees' 69th birthday.

"This is our time to celebrate our legacy and reflect upon what all the Seabees have done in the past and the great future ahead," said Cmdr. Wendy Halsey, public works officer for Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

Navy Capt. Thomas Karnowski with Civil Engineers Corps led the audience in a toast to honor those lost in battle or who have passed away. On stage, a circular dining table with five empty seats was displayed. A

member from each military branch placed his cover onto the table in tribute to prisoners of war and servicemembers missing in action.

Guest speaker Navy Capt. J. Heinzl, commanding officer, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast, focused on the unique roles both Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and the Seabees have today.

"Naval Station Guantanamo Bay is one cool location to celebrate the Seabee Ball," said Heinzl. "In today's conflict, Guantanamo Bay is one-of-kind and the United States Seabees are one-of-a-kind."

The Navy introduced the first Naval Construction Battalion on

March 5, 1942 which became the official Seabee birthday.

"It's really important to celebrate the history and all the great accomplishments of the Seabees," said Rear Adm. Jeffery Harbeson, commander, Joint Task Force Guantanamo. "They do a fantastic job for us in the Navy and the military."

During the ceremony, Heinzl presented a Seabee Combat Warfare device to Construction Mechanic 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Bryant Curry of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 28.

"The award symbolizes his ability and proficiency in combat skills, especially those needed in contingency operations," said

Equipment Operator 1st Class Lori Roberts.

After the award presentation, the oldest Seabee, Capt. Thomas Karnowski, age 58, and the youngest Seabee, Engineering Aide 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Roger Alexander, age 21, were asked to cut the cake.

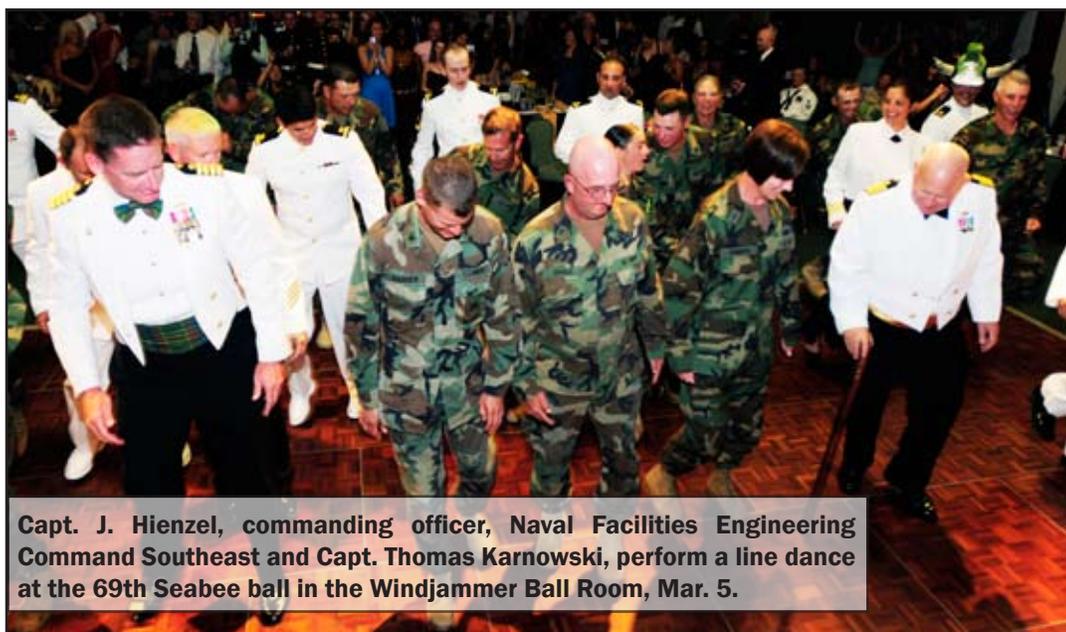
Junior officers attached to NAVSTA Guantanamo Bay's Public Works Department provided another highlight when they led the audience in singing "The Song of the Seabees."

The evening event was made possible by a wide variety of people who offered their time and effort.

"I want to thank the Seabee Ball committee who has been working on this for six months as well the Navy Exchange who donated goods, the Windjammer staff and the entire community who has supported events like our Mud Run and auctions," concluded Halsey.

Presently, Seabees from NMCB 28, a reserve unit from Shreveport, La., are constructing a new Club Survivor building in Camp America. Seabees are highly trained and experienced in their specialty.

"The average age of a Seabee in a reservist battalion is about 36 years old," explained Logistics Specialist 1st Class Terry Keck. "Most of these Sailors do construction outside the military. They are knowledgeable about concrete and some work on million dollar projects when they are not doing reserve drills. These guys are phenomenal in their fields."



**Capt. J. Hienzel, commanding officer, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast and Capt. Thomas Karnowski, perform a line dance at the 69th Seabee ball in the Windjammer Ball Room, Mar. 5.**

## Medics get creative, solve fitness scheduling challenges

Story by Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

"We can't get to the gym with our schedule."

This refrain is what Gilman Fortin, a hospital corpsman first class with Joint Task Force Guantanamo's Joint Medical Clinic, was used to hearing from his Troopers working shifts spread around the clock.

"Trying to keep up with the regular gym hours on base was getting irritating for my guys working the odd shifts, holidays, weekends, things like that,"

Fortin said.

Fortin decided to do something about it. Finding a pavilion on Camp America not in use, he gathered up a few pieces of equipment and set up an "always open" CrossFit (a strength and conditioning program used by many police academies and tactical operations teams, military special operations units, champion martial artists, and hundreds of other elite and professional athletes) style gym.

"Building this will allow Troopers to be well rounded in

their physical fitness, 24-hours a day, without having to leave the area," he explained.

Fortin marshaled his fellow Troopers into action and the crew began the task of cleaning out the pavilion and prepping it as a work-out space.

"It started out as a patio area that was dirty and being used for nothing," he said. "I asked people what they desired for equipment. They would give me a request, I would hunt it down and if it was not easily acquired I would make it from scratch."

Unlike a traditional gym, Fortin said one of the benefits of the open air gym is the ability to drop the weights.

"The type of work-out a lot of my guys do involves pushing the exercise to muscle fatigue," said Fortin. "This means sometimes weights or equipment gets dropped. They really frown on you doing that at the gyms here on base."

Fortin added much of the equipment was extremely

see FITNESS, page 19

# The First Classes try to rewrite history, while MPs battle it out. In a weekend of epic clashes, who was left standing?

Stories by Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

# RIVA WE



## | First Classes vs. the Chiefs |

Down four runs and their final at-bats pending, members of the Chief Petty Officers Association softball team stopped for a minute to gather their senses. Huddled tightly, the team let out a rousing chant of “Navy Chiefs! Navy Pride!”

The rally had the desired effect; scoring five runs, the Chiefs held the First Classes scoreless in the bottom of the seventh for a 15-14 victory.

While not the drubbing from their December match-up, this was a contest the First Classes wanted to win as evidenced in their pregame smack talk.

“We’re going to kick their butts,” said John Lukosus, a member of the First Classes’ team. “They only got like five players’ team that can play; the rest are coming out of retirement.”

Undeterred and un-rattled by the lopsided support for the First Classes, the Chiefs took to the field with their own brand of swagger.

“We’ll put our talk on the field,” said Frank Lewandowski. “We put them to shame the last time.”

From the start it looked as though the Chiefs were being fed a healthy diet of crow as hit after hit the First Classes built a substantial lead, stymieing attempts by the Chiefs to even things up.

Inning after inning, the jeering and snarky comments coming from the side of the First Classes grew louder culminating in the bottom of the sixth when it appeared the First Classes would get the job done and bring home the win.

Then the seventh inning came along.

Confidently, the Chiefs placed balls to short right field, confounding the defense of the First Classes. For the first time in the game, the First Classes were on the wrong side of a winning score with three outs separating the Chiefs and a victory.

As the First Classes took to the field for the bottom stanza, the heckling from the First Classes side turned against their own, begging for a hit, anything to drop the Chiefs – but it wasn’t to be.

“Even though they spotted us eight in the first half, we still beat them,” said Edgar Gomez of the Chiefs team.

First Classes’ shortstop, Troy Clark, who played in both contests, was resigned in the defeat.

“We played a lot better and it was more exciting,” he said. “We’ll get ‘em next time!”

# A DAY IN THE LIFE

## Part One

Story and photos by Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

Standing before his guards, the assistant watch commander looks over his notes. His eyes close and a deep sigh escapes as he shakes his head from side to side.

“Be advised,” he calls out in a calm voice. “All guards working on the block -- we’ve received word someone is getting number two-ed today.”

Without even knowing, a quick glance around the room will tell you who they are. Pained expressions flash across the faces of those working the block only to be quickly replaced with solemn resignation. For these Troopers of the Naval Expeditionary Guard Battalion, it’s just another day working the camps of Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

The infamous number two. A mix of feces, urine and other bodily fluids rolled into a putrid cocktail and thrown on the guards by detainees of the facility.

“They’ll wait, they’re very patient,” the AWC explains. “You’ll be talking to one detainee and get involved in a conversation with them and not be paying attention to everything that is going on around you.”

That’s when they strike. While the guard is preoccupied by one, another detainee will appear and deliver the foul payload.

“I try and keep my head on a swivel,” the AWC says. “I try and be aware of everything that is going on around me from every direction.”

Sometimes the detainees miss, but typically the fire for effect is on target. Either way, the psychological affect is the same.

It’s 5:30 in the morning. This group of guards are just starting their day and already the specter of a number two weighs on their minds. The leading chief petty officer walks amongst the group inspecting uniforms, checking haircuts, ensuring every Sailor is squared-away. The AWC finishes relaying all the significant activities from the previous watch and the guards head out to assume their duties.



## Commission recommends women be allowed in combat arms

Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A report released to the president and Congress Monday recommends 20 changes in the way the military facilitates diversity, and suggests gender barriers be lifted on all career fields.

The Military Leadership Diversity Commission, established under the 2009 National Defense Authorization Act, is a group of 31 active-duty and retired officers, enlisted personnel and senior executives from major corporations. Research the commission conducted included finding a new universal definition of diversity and how to increase language, regional and diverse cultural knowledge in military leaders.

The commission is also recommending that the Department of Defense eliminate its combat-exclusion policies, which currently bar women from combat-arms specialties and from assignment in units battalion-size or smaller that have a routine mission to engage in direct combat.

According to the report, the commission would like the military to immediately allow women to be assigned to any unit that requires their military occupation, regardless of the type of unit. It would also like the DoD to take steps to open up career fields traditionally not available to women, including combat arms.

Several of the changes recommended will need a congressional vote, while others could be implemented at the level of the secretary of defense.

Sgt. Amanda Solitario, an Army Reserve Soldier with the 304th Public Affairs Detachment at Joint Base Lewis-McCord, Wash., said she doesn't agree with the idea of women serving on the front lines.

"I don't really feel that women should be serving in combat-arms positions," she said. "I don't know how the average American feels about this, but I think that even if the woman is qualified for the position, I think it would be detrimental to put her in an all-male unit."

Solitario, who served in Iraq in 2007, explained that while there, on one occasion, she was the only female Soldier traveling with an all-male infantry unit. Solitario convoyed with the unit, and spent the night in an empty building with them en route to their destination.

She explained that even though the unit was stand-offish toward her at first, they warmed up to her after one day. However, sleeping in a room full of men with no privacy to change her clothes or use the



**Spc. Crisma Albarran detaches an ammunition case from its mount after a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter flight over Iraq, March 14, 2010.**  
— Photo by U.S. Army

bathroom was uncomfortable for Solitario.

Solitario's main concern of having women in combat-arms units, is she thinks women would simply slow the men down. She said she thought women would hold them back in training, and in a combat situation, men might be more worried about protecting the female Soldiers than their mission.

"There are separate standards, so how can you ask to put a female in an all-male unit?" Solitario said, pointing out the differences in scoring for the Army Physical Fitness Test as an example.

Solitario also said she was worried that more female Soldiers being killed in combat could have a detrimental effect on the country.

"If you put women in combat-arms positions, there are simply going to be a lot more female fatalities," she said.

Conversely, Staff Sgt. Genevieve Chase, a military intelligence Soldier and founder of American Women Veterans, has a very different point of view.

"We serve in normal society as equals now," Chase said, explaining that she thinks women should be allowed to join combat-arms units — if they can keep up.

Chase said she doesn't think standards should be altered to cater to women, noting that she knows some female Soldiers who are just as physically fit as their male counterparts, so they should have an equal shot at any career path they choose.

"The infantry is not for every female Soldier, just like it's not for every male," Chase explained. "There are a lot of men in the Army, and not all of them want to be

infantry."

As a military intelligence specialist, Chase, who speaks fluent Pashtu, said she's often been in circumstances where she is the only woman in a group of male Soldiers, and she's fine with that. She said her experiences with otherwise all-male units have been good ones, and she would like to see all jobs opened up to women — if they can make the cut.

Chase also said she would like to see more acknowledgment for female servicemembers killed in combat, which is part of the reason she started American Women Veterans. She said that American society largely ignores the fact that more than 140 female servicemembers have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and that women are already unofficially serving in combat-arms positions in jobs like military police.

Overall, she said she supports what the Military Leadership Diversity Commission is trying to accomplish, but said the hardest thing to change will be the culture of the military.

"The commission envisions expanding opportunities while maintaining the military's high standards," said retired Air Force Gen. Lester Lyles, chairman of the commission in an Military Leadership Diversity Commission press release. "This could be done by removing barriers that are unrelated to doing the job, such as barriers related to the individual's demographic membership, rather than their ability."

To view a copy of the Military Leadership Diversity Commission's final report, visit <http://mldc.whs.mil>.



## AF launches unmanned spacecraft

*Second flight of new reusable vehicle to last up to 270 days*

CAPE CANAVERAL AIR FORCE STATION, Fla. (AFNS) – In the latest step to improve space capability and further develop an affordable, reusable space vehicle, Air Force technicians launched the second X-37B here March 5, officials said.

The Orbital Test Vehicle-2 launch comes on the heels of the successful flight of OTV-1, which made an autonomous landing at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., Dec. 3 after 224 days in space. According to officials, post-flight analysis of OTV-1 revealed OTV-2 needed no significant changes, but detailed assessments of the first mission are ongoing.

“Launch is a very demanding business and having what appears to be a successful launch is always welcome news,” said Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for Space Programs Richard McKinney, adding he is pleased with the vehicle’s initial status reports. “It is important to remember that this is an experimental vehicle; that this is just the second launch; and that we have just started what is a very systematic checkout of the system.”

Mr. McKinney explained the second X-37B flight will help Air Force scientists better evaluate the vehicle’s performance characteristics and expand upon the tests from OTV-1.

One performance test, for example, will evaluate a change following the flight of OTV-1, which showed potential for greater flexibility in the landing parameters.

“We look forward to testing enhancements to the landing profile,” said Lt. Col. Troy Giese, X-37B program manager for the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office, which leads the Department of Defense OTV program. Colonel Giese added that program officials want to test landing capabilities in stronger wind conditions.

“The X-37B really is a remarkable scientific and aerospace achievement,” he said. “We’ll also be looking at the performance of its advanced thermal protection systems and tiles, solar power systems and environmental modeling - all important system capabilities for a space vehicle that we want to be able to bring back and then re-launch quickly.”

Power and environmental protections are also important to one of the most promising capabilities of the vehicle: its orbit duration, which is much longer than a manned mission like NASA’s space shuttle, Colonel Giese said.

Similar to OTV-1, OTV-2’s actual mission duration will depend on the vehicle achieving its test objectives, but he expects it to remain on orbit for approximately 270 days.

“We may extend the mission to enhance our understanding of the OTV capabilities,” Colonel Giese said, “especially since the performance data from the first flight suggest that the vehicle could have gone beyond the 270-day requirement.”

Officials believe the program has potential to make space experiments more affordable.

“This program provides a test capability that was difficult to achieve through other means, the ability to examine how highly complex technologies will perform in space before they are made operational,” Mr. McKinney said, “But right now our focus is on the X-37B itself, and this second flight is important to our further understanding of its capabilities.”

Air Force officials anticipate multiple missions will be required to satisfy the X-37B program test objectives, but a third mission has not yet been scheduled.

## Airmen deliver aid to Libyan evacuees

DJAERBA, Tunisia – Airmen from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, delivered humanitarian aid March 4 to Libyan evacuees and foreign nationals, who have fled here due to a political uprising in Libya.

The Airmen, assigned to the 37th Airlift Squadron, piloted two C-130J Super Hercules and carried 2,000 wool blankets, 40 units of tarps and 9,600 water containers from the U.S. Agency for International Development in Pisa, Italy.

Lt. Col. Charles Schlegel, the 435th Air Mobility Squadron commander, is leading a contingency response team working with aircrews from the 37th ALS on the humanitarian missions. He said his team is excited to partner with 17th Air Force members to support State Department officials.

“We know that there are a lot of folks (who) are currently displaced, (who) will hopefully soon be able to return to their home countries and, hopefully, we can expedite that and bring humanitarian assistance to people who need it,” Colonel Schlegel said. “This is being driven by the State Department, and we are ready to support any requests they have.”

Army Col. Alberto Chidini, coordinator of the Army’s Camp Darby humanitarian assistance program at Pisa, was on the flightline for the pickup, making sure the humanitarian cargo was ready to load.

“I’ve seen the reports,” Colonel Chidini said. “The situation is very bad, and our people are ready to react. This could happen to anyone and hopefully someone is ready to help. In this case, (it’s) us.”

## Some prior-service officers now eligible for early retirement

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AFNS) – Air Force officials announced plans recently to allow some prior-service officers the opportunity to retire earlier than expected.

As a result of the Fiscal 2011 National Defense Authorization Act, eligible officers with prior enlisted service who have completed 20 years of total active federal military service may apply to retire by Sept. 1 with less total active federal commissioned service.

“This new legislation gives the Air Force the ability to allow most prior service officers the option to retire with eight rather than 10 years of active commissioned service,” explained Brig. Gen. Sharon K. G. Dunbar, the director of Air Force Force Management Policy. More Airmen are choosing to stay in the Air Force, and retention is at the highest level in 16 years. For that reason, the Air Force introduced voluntary and involuntary force-management programs to

better size and shape the current force. A two-year waiver of active commissioned service is one of many voluntary programs available to eligible officers this year as part of the Air Force’s initiative to reduce end strength.

“We want to leverage voluntary separation and retirement programs to the maximum extent possible, and so we’re pleased this early retirement option is now available,” General Dunbar said.

Most officers in the line of the Air Force, judge advocate general, chaplain, biomedical science corps and medical service corps competitive categories are eligible. Additional program eligibility and information will be sent out from the Air Force Personnel Center.

For more information, visit the Air Force personnel services website or call the Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102.



# Florida Keys to implement paddle craft labeling program

Coast Guard News Service

KEY WEST, Fla. – The Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary in Sector Key West are teaming up to launch Operation Paddle Smart, a campaign benefiting the Florida Keys and the U.S. maritime community.

The goal of Operation Paddle Smart is to educate small watercraft owners on water safety and provide them with a sticker that could be beneficial to everyone involved, whether they're kayaking or part of a search and rescue operation.

Large recreational or commercial vessels include hull registration numbers and a vessel name, which identify the owner. Kayaks and other forms of paddle watercrafts often don't include identifying features that allow the owner to be contacted.

Operation Paddle Smart will feature safety messages and provide small-watercraft owners with reflective, waterproof stickers offering space for boaters to write their name and two phone numbers in case their watercraft is found drifting. Stickers will be available at boating safety events, boating supply stores and through partner agencies.

"With the ability to contact the small-

watercraft owners, Coast Guard and partner agency responders can cut back on the number of unnecessary risks placed on search and rescue operators and reduce the money and resources expended," said Capt. Pat DeQuattro, commander, Coast Guard Sector Key West.

The campaign will begin with a proclamation

presented to DeQuattro from the Mayor of Monroe County Heather Carruthers at the March 16 County Commission meeting in Marathon, Fla., declaring April "Paddle Smart Identification Month" in Monroe County.

The Safe Boating Fair will be offered at the Key West Sail and Power Squadron Building at 5205 College Road in Key West, April 2.



Beginning at 9 a.m., this day-long event will team the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the U.S. Sail and Power Squadron and other partner agencies to demonstrate numerous aspects of safe boating, including paddle craft labeling.

For more information on Operation Paddle Smart or to obtain a sticker, please contact the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Monroe County at 888-470-5566.

## Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma to receive Environmental Sustainability Award

Coast Guard News Service

PETALUMA, Calif. – Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma is slated to receive the Coast Guard's 2010 Environmental Sustainability Award in recognition of the commands dedication to environmental stewardship Friday.

The Training Center is winning this award for the second consecutive year after also claiming the top award in 2009. It recognizes Petaluma's personnel for their superior environmental performance and commends them for their significant achievement and commitment to being environmentally friendly in 2010.

Vice Adm. Sally Brice-O'Hara, vice commandant of the Coast Guard,

will be presenting the award on March 11, at the Training Center.

Capt. Christopher Hall, commanding officer of Petaluma, and Cmdr. Jeffrey Good, the facility engineer, will accept the award in recognition of the Training Center's strategic planning and renewable energy and water initiatives. They achieved significant savings and pollution prevention through innovative storm water management, spill prevention, landscaping, and recycling practices.

"Winning the environmental award two years in a row is a great honor for us," said Hall. "I believe it reflects the values of those that live and work at Training Center Petaluma – I'm extremely proud to be a part of this community. One of my goals is to make this the most environmentally friendly Coast Guard base in the world."

Upon arriving in Petaluma two and a half years ago, Hall created a four year program called Petaluma Green. The first two years of the program focused on renewable energy and energy conservation measures. The second two years will focus on water conservation and the protection of natural resources.

Highlights so far include a five acre solar array that provides 1MW of solar power and prevents the release of approximately 2,500,000lbs of carbon dioxide greenhouse gases per year into the atmosphere. The base also installed a solar thermal array for the swimming pool, solar street lights, and upgraded to more efficient windows and siding in housing. The Training Center has also focused on reducing its water usage through low flow fixtures and a comprehensive landscaping strategy saving water by requiring less irrigation. Additionally, 400 native plants and trees were planted across the base. Future plans include a comprehensive energy audit strategy that will allow the Training Center to modernize its buildings and significantly reduce its energy footprint.

### Ceremony posthumously honors Emlen Tunnell with Silver Lifesaving Medal

Coast Guard News Service

ALAMEDA, Calif. – During a ceremony Thursday, the Coast Guard posthumously honored former Coast Guardsman and Pro Football Hall of Famer, Emlen Tunnell, with the Silver Life Saving Medal and gymnasium dedication. Tunnell's sister, Vivian Robinson, accepted the award on his behalf.

Tunnell was awarded the SLM for conducting two life-saving rescues during his short Coast Guard career from 1943-46. His role as an athlete throughout his lifetime before, during and after the Coast Guard made it fitting and appropriate to name the Coast Guard Island gym after him. He pursued a professional football career after the Coast Guard and helped break the color barrier in sports history.

**HALL PASS**  
GOOD FOR ONE WEEK OFF MARRIAGE



Spc. Meredith Vincent

It's been 12 long years since the Farrelly brothers brought us the gem among gross-out comedies, "There's Something about Mary," – as well as launching a million hair gel jokes – and longer still since Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels showed just how dumb (and dumber) they could be. The early and mid-nineties were years of comedic gold for Bobby and Peter Farrelly as audiences ate up their crude, crass and oftentimes hysterical stories of men behaving stupidly.

Unfortunately, the new millennium has not been as kind to the director/producer team as they have not been able to connect with movie-goers quite like they used to.

Take "Hall Pass," for example. The plot is fairly simple: Rick (Owen Wilson) and Fred (SNL's Jason Sudeikis) are best friends whose wives, motivated by frustration at their husbands' unrelenting and boorish sexual appetites, decide to allow them one week "off marriage." It's an act of desperation, advised by "The View's" Joy Behar, to save their marriages and force their adolescent partners to let go of their glory days and focus on the present.

Of course, the joke is these guys think being married is what is preventing them from having unrestrained sex lives, when in reality, between the two of them, they don't have game enough to fill a small Viagra bottle. Upon release from their marital chains, they promptly infiltrate an Applebee's looking for girls, then eat themselves into a stupor. What chick can resist a guy with a BBQ sauce ring around his lips?



And so it goes, a day-by-day account of Rick and Fred's misadventures as they attempt to recreate their bachelor glory days. Sudeikis is actually the most lovable of the two, if not the most delusional. Wilson, with tucked-in plaid shirts and dweeby square-guy haircut, triggers a desperation and awkwardness that's sometimes just short of creepy.

Jenna Fischer and Christina Applegate are the duo's wives, and although they are given plenty of screen time and their own subplots, there's nothing much for them to do but stand around complaining about the men they married.

Peppered throughout are the shocking

"Oh-no,-they-did-not-just-show-that!" scenes the Farrelly brothers are famous for, most of which I cannot describe in these pages. Instead of helping to drive the plot, these scenes feel disconnected and unnatural – shock for shock value alone. Did I laugh when Rick and Fred, accompanied by their diverse few friends that every male comedy must come with, scarf brownies on a golf course, only to watch one of those said friends defecate on a bunker? Yes, I did. In fact, I laughed a lot during this movie. But I have to wonder if I wasn't tricked into laughing, or if it was genuine amusement. Three banana rats, because I'm pretty sure it's the former.

	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Downtown Lyceum	Rango (PG) 7 p.m.	Just Go With It (PG-13) 7 p.m.	Hall Pass (R) 8 p.m.	The Dilemma (PG13) 8 p.m.	The Fighter (R) 8 p.m.	Unknown (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Season of the Witch (PG-13) 8 p.m.
	Country Strong (PG-13) 9 p.m.	No Strings Attached (R) 9 p.m.					
Camp Bulkeley	Just Go With It (PG-13) 8 p.m.	Rango (PG) 8 p.m.	The Dilemma (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Hall Pass (R) 8 p.m.	True Grit (PG-13) 8 p.m.	The Fighter (R) 8 p.m.	Green Hornet (PG-13) 8 p.m.
	No Strings Attached (R) 10 p.m.	Country Strong (PG-13) 10 p.m.					

Call MWR at ext. 2010 for more information.

Movie Hotline - call 4880.



Utilitiesman 1st Class Kevin Geegan checks a level for the installation of batter boards as part of the construction of a new enlisted club at Camp America, Mar. 2. — photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Jordan Miller.



Sailors from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and Joint Task Force Guantanamo take the Navy-wide first class petty officer advancement examination at the Windjammer Ballroom, March 3. — photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class David P. Coleman.



Service members from Naval Station Guantanamo and Joint Task Force Guantanamo participate in a team building run, March 3. — photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class David P. Coleman.



Spc. J Woodard, with the 525th Military Police Battalion has the hood strings of his joint lightweight integrated suit technology (JLIST) coat loosened at Buckley Field, Mar. 3. — photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Jordan Miller.

# Around the JTF

